

2

November 3, 1958

Mr. Bernard Jaffe
25 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn 38, New York

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

Thank you for your note of October 30th.

I am enclosing some material relating to our research program in bacterial genetics. I hope this will be helpful to you.

In addition there is some biographical material from the University News Service.

To answer your specific questions there have been no scientists in my antecedent family. I have had the fixed ambition of being a scientist since my earliest recollections and these must, on documentary evidence, date from before my sixth birthday. I would not know how to account for this. My family neither specifically encouraged nor discouraged this bent although scholarship in general was at a high premium, as my father now-invalid was a rabbi. I am grateful to you, among other authors, whose books help to sustain if not initiate my interest in a scientific career. The same would hold for my teachers in the public schools and high school who helped me to the best of their own ability. Stuyvesant High School in particular had an excellent curriculum with an emphasis on manual technique in addition to academic training that has been extremely helpful in my later experimental work. I had an additional opportunity to try my hand, in an amateurish way, at research through the good offices of the American Institute Science Laboratory, program sponsored in large part by the IBM corporation, which preceded the later Westinghouse Science Searches. My goals were very well fixed by the time I entered Columbia College and my professors there were instrumental in helping me along my career. They were especially thoughtful in being tolerant of an academic program which must have seemed entirely bizarre. If you are intent on securing more details concerning early impressions I might suggest that you consult my first major professor, Professor Francis J. Ryan, at the Zoology Department at Columbia University. This was, after all, not so very long ago.

None of the above is for direct attribution but I hope you may find it useful as background material.

Yours sincerely,

P.S. My brother Seymour
(Also Stuyvesant H.S.) B.A. Cornell;
Ph.D. Illinois and postdoctoral fellow, **Joshua Lederberg**
ship work at Berkeley, is now an **Professor of Medical Genetics**
Assistant Professor of Biology at Brown U.

Enc:
JL/jp